

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or )  
Revocation of the Educator's Certificate )  
of Stephanie V. Felkel )  
Certificate # 172078 )

### **ORDER OF SUSPENSION (BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

### **SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 7, 2002. Notice of the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator's certificate (certificate) was sent to Ms. Stephanie Felkel from the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. Felkel received the notice as evidenced by a confirmation of delivery issued by the United States Postal Service. Ms. Felkel did request a hearing but later agreed to a Stipulation of Facts with the employing district that was presented to the State Board by the Department. After considering the evidence presented by the Department the State Board voted to accept the recommendation contained in the Stipulation of Facts to suspend Ms. Felkel's certificate # 172078 for eleven months.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Felkel holds a valid certificate and has over five years of teaching experience. She signed a teaching contract with the Dorchester County School District Four (District) for the 2002-2003 school year. On July 30, 2002, Ms. Felkel met with the District Superintendent to inform her of personal difficulties that she felt warranted her resignation. On July 31, 2002, Ms. Felkel submitted a letter of resignation, effective

immediately. On August 1, 2002, the District gave Ms. Felkel written notice that, based on District policy, she would not be released from her teaching contract until a suitable replacement could be found. She was also directed to report to work as scheduled on August 5, 2002. Ms. Felkel did not report to work on August 5<sup>th</sup> or at anytime thereafter. On August 12, 2002, the District Board of Trustees voted to recommend that Ms. Felkel's certificate be suspended by the State Board for breach of contract. On September 12, 2002, the District forwarded the suspension request to the Department.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence to support its decision to suspend Ms. Felkel's certificate #172078 for eleven months from August 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if she wants her certificate reinstated, Ms. Felkel may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ J. Spratt White  
J. Spratt White  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 7, 2003